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EXAMINER
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2164	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 November 2009</u>.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.** 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-7,18-21 and 30</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-7, 18-21, and 30</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1.   In response to communications filed on November 23, 2009, no new claims have

been cancelled; claims 1, 18 and 30 have been amended, and no new claims have

been added. Therefore, claims 1-6, 18-21 and 30 are presently pending in the

application.

Claim Objections

2.   The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for

the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction

of the following is required:

3.   Claim 1, 18, and 30, disclose a "fields and query logic", however, "query logic" is

not defined or even mentioned in the specification. Therefore, fails to provide proper

antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Furthermore, makes the claim

language unclear and vague.

        Claims 2-6, 19-21 are objected to because they are dependent upon rejected

independent claims 1 and 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

        A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b),
by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a
patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the
invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty
defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application
filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and
was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5.   Claims 1-7, 18-21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Gupta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,956,593).

As to claim 1, Gupta et al. teaches a method for annotating a query component

(See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16,

lines 19-42), comprising:

receiving a selection of the query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column

12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42), the query component

being a portion of a query having a plurality of portions containing fields and query logic

(See column 2, lines 24-53);

annotating the selected query component responsive to receiving; (i) an

annotation for the selected query component (see column 2, lines 24-53) and (ii) a

request to associate the annotation with the selected query component via an interface

allowing a user to create the annotation and request the association with the selected

query component (See column 2, lines 24-53; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines

34-45; column 16, lines 19-42); and

storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected

query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines

34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claim 2, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches wherein the selected query component comprises one or more query conditions (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claim 3, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches wherein the selected query component comprises one or more instance values of data, where instance values are any particular value inputted in a field (See *).

As to claim 4, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches providing an interface for building the query by specifying query components (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42); and wherein receiving an indication of the selected query component comprises receiving a user selection of one or more query components specified, via the interface, for use in a query (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claims 5 and 19, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected query component, the suggested substitution being selectable to replace the selected query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42); wherein the operations further comprise providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected query component (See column 2,

lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claim 6, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises: decomposing the query component into one or more fragments; and storing the fragments with the annotation (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42*).

As to claims 7 and 20, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises: substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the query component; and storing the query component with the parameter marker with the annotation (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42*); wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises: substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the query component; and storing the query component with the parameter marker with the annotation (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42*).

As to claim 18, <u>Gupta et al.</u> teaches a computer-readable storage medium containing a program for annotating query components which, when executed by a

processor (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42), performs operations comprising:

receiving a selection of a query component, the selected query component being a portion of a query having a plurality of portions containing fields and query logic (column 2, lines 24-53; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

annotating the selected query component responsive to receiving; (i) an annotation for the selected query component (see column 2, lines 24-53) and (ii) a request to associate the annotation with the selected query component via an interface allowing a user to create an annotation to associate with the selected query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42); and

storing, on a storage device, the annotation with a reference to the selected query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claim 21, Gupta et al. teaches wherein the operations further comprise: monitoring one or more query components specified for use in a query (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

searching for annotations associated with the one or more query components (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42); and

providing an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query components (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

As to claim 30, <u>Gupta et al.</u> a method (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42), comprising:

receiving a selection of the query component, the query component being a portion of a query having a plurality of portions containing fields and query logic (column 2, lines 24-53; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

providing an interface allowing a user to create an annotation and request an association between the annotation and the selected query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

in response to receiving the annotation and the request, annotating the selected query component by storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected query component (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

monitoring one or more query components specified for use in a query being composed in a query building interface (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42);

searching for stored annotations associated with the one or more query

components (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59; column 15, lines 34-

45; column 16, lines 19-42); and

outputting an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the

one or more query components (See column 2, lines 43-47; column 12, lines 39-59;

column 15, lines 34-45; column 16, lines 19-42).

Response to Arguments

6.   No new arguments have been presented. The Examiner has maintained her

previous rejection and added the current amendments made along with new citations,

citing the appropriate sections of the prior art that address the new amendments. The

added amendments have not placed the application in a condition for allowance and the

claim objections presented above have to be fixed/clarified.

Conclusion

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to MELLISSA M. CHOJNACKI whose telephone number is

(571)272-4076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

April 23, 2010
Mmc

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164